# e-Bugle

# Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 58 February 2011 No. 2

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Calendar			
Fri., Jan. 21	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO lobby	Mon., Feb. 7	Monthly yard waste collection
Sun., Jan. 23	Archives presentation, Town	Tues., Feb. 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm
	Hall, 2 pm: "Depression Era in GP"	Fri., Feb. 11	Film Society, Town Hall, A Man and a Woman; food 7, film 8 (p 6)
Mon., Jan. 24	Council work session, Town Office, 7:30 pm	Mon., Feb. 14	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Thurs., Jan. 27	Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm	Tues., Feb. 15	Bugle deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Jan. 29	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6 pm (reservations required; call 301-946-5930)	Sun., Feb. 20	Archives presentation, Town Hall, 2 pm: "Garrett Park as a Nuclear-Free Zone"
Wed., Feb. 2	Nursery School parents meeting, Town Hall, 7 pm	Wed., Feb. 23	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBA)
Thurs., Feb. 3	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Feb. 24	Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm
Sat., Feb. 5	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm	Fri., Feb. 25	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in the PO lobby

## Round and Round in the Circle Game

At January's Town Council meeting, the Council approved a 25-year lease for the Garrett Park Nursery School. Board Member Tara Flynn responded to the approval by recalling the three years of hard work that went into this result: "Over three years ago, we asked Garrett Park for help because things looked very grim for the Nursery School and the Community Center. We were afraid they were going (to quote Joni Mitchell) 'to pave paradise and put up a parking lot.' I applaud the Town Council and the Mayor for realizing what we all have in the Garrett Park Nursery School and the Community Center and not letting them disappear. Now, due to their efforts, both town institutions are here to stay for a long time. As a Garrett Park resident and a member of the Garrett Park Nursery School Executive Board, I couldn't be happier."

Your reporter sang Joni Mitchell songs in the Community Center when she was a teenager, so this comment had her thinking of another Joni Mitchell song, "The Circle Game"—"We can't return; we can only look behind from where we came."

The less misty-eye-making business of this month's meeting included such nuts and bolts items as a new starting time for Town Council meetings (it's 7:30 beginning next month) and a 7:30 Council work session on January 24 at the Town Office, on topics such as storm water drainage projects and the fiscal year 2011 budget.

Also at the January meeting, the Town Council voted to seek public comment on a regulation implementing Maryland's Public Information Act, based on a model provided by the state attorney general. Under the regulation, the town may charge "reasonable fees" for document requests from citizens that involve large amounts of resources for response. Final adoption is anticipated in February.

Liz King, in citizen presentations to the Council, asked for clarification on where the town was in its land use and zoning deliberations. She'd recently attended county meetings on this subject, and with the county developing its own programs of land use, she wondered about the

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status of town discussion on this. The Council responded that the town was still reviewing all land use matters.

In response to a question from Councilmember Wegner about the trees on Oxford, the Mayor said that the Montgomery Council Public Schools contractor will let the town know when they've taken away the steel plates at Kenilworth and Oxford. Phil Normandy will then check the roots of a nearby pin oak for any damage.

The town now has an Archives Committee, whose members are Marian Green, Nancy Schwartz, Nancy Walz, Charlie Snyder, Jim Agenbroad, Glenda Ingham, and Kay Hager.

Given the much better rate of return on an ING Bank business savings account than on our current Montgomery County pooled investment account, Town Administrator Ted Pratt proposed that we move "that portion of the town's funds held in the MCIT that were restricted, including \$175,000 for the Operating Reserve, \$25,000 for the Yeandle Park Fund, and \$5,000 for the Penn Place Security Deposits," to ING, "and to further transfer \$10,000 from the First Dollar Reserve Escrow Account, which earned no interest, into the new ING account."

The subsequent motion that we move these funds passed unanimously.

This month, your reporter reflected more intensely than she usually does on the admirable civic spirit of Garrett Park residents. Her thoughts were prompted by the Mayor opening the meeting with a moment of reflection on the events in Tucson.

Margaret Soltan

# Green Again

Our thanks this month go to Patricia Bulhack of Strathmore Avenue for her donation to keep the banner green. The \$60 goes into the bucket, and we get the green printed all at once, before each issue is put together. Would anyone like to donate for June 2011? That's where we are paid up for at the moment. Send a check made out to the Citizens Association to me, Box 98, and we'll put the money into that bucket. Thank you in advance.

This month we are including an envelope for you to use to mail your dues to the Citizens Association. You can either do that or pay them when you attend the Town Dinner on January 29. Remember, dues are \$10 per individual or \$20 per family at any one address in town, and the dues help pay for the *Bugle* to come out every month, the 4th of July festivities, the Town Dinner, and other special happenings that go on in town.

Mary Moyer

Visit Garrett Park's Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov

## **Holiday Decorating Contest**

Congratulations to everyone from the Garrett Park Women's Club. Garrett Park couldn't have been more beautiful this year. All houses were winners, but some deserved special recognition:

Best House: 10701 Keswick (Andrews/Quigley)

Best Yard: 4604 Strathmore (Brantly/Austin)

Best Door/Window: 11114 Kenilworth (Keen)

Best Porch: 10708 Clermont Avenue (Martin)

Kids Award: 11304 Kenilworth (Thibodeau)

Most Creative: 4419 Cambria (Schulp/Horan)

Most Charming: 10801 Montrose (Abraham)

Green Award: 11010 Kenilworth (Miller)

Honorable Mention: 4605 Waverly (Liden)

Mayor's Award: 4702 Waverly (Baily) (The Bailys are delighted to invite you to walk the labyrinth any time of the year.)

Congratulations to all! Thank you for brightening our town, and adding to the joy of the season. We hope everyone took some time to enjoy the beautiful decorations—and make plans for next year!

# Women's Club Report

Santa's visit and winter clothing drive was a success! GP Brownie/Girl Scout troops collected more than 200 articles of warm winter clothing. The items have been donated to the National Center for Women and Children. Thank you all for your generosity!

How about a Garrett Park t-shirt? They are forest green with a tree design (see photo on the notice board) and are available for \$10 from Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office.

Want to know more about the Garrett Park Women's Club? Contact president Valerie Gottron or vice-president Lillian Del Priore. Upcoming events are published in the *Bugle* or on the listserv.

The Garrett Bugle is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:** 

President: Chris Strong (Chris.s.strong@gmail.com)
Co-Vice-Presidents: Todd Harris and Mario Grande President:

Lara Hines Secretary:

Leslie Bethke-Pope Cathy Rinzel, Mike Grieb, Kathryn Mitchell Members at large:

**Bugle staff:** 

Editor: Barbara Collier (Box 191)

Reporters: Margaret Soltan (Box 518), Mary Moyer (Box 98)

Ads: Mary Moyer (Box 98)

Ads: Mary Moyer (Box 98)

Subscriptions: Jane Salomon (Box 227)

Distribution: Peggy Pratt

First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to Bugle staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

#### **Town Administrator Notes**

Leaf collection has finished for the year. Chances are you have a few leaves left over. You can either pile them up in a corner of your yard for composting (the Town Office has composting bins available for free—stop by and pick one up, if you like), or bag the leaves for the yard waste pickup the first Monday in February. Please use paper yard waste bags. If you missed the scheduled Christmas tree pickup, just put your tree out, and we will take it away.

The town's winter tree removals will soon begin. For some trees, wood will be stacked curbside, cut in fireplace length. The wood is intended for town residents.

Snow has not yet fallen in any significant amount. This is good for our budget, but unlikely to last. So please remember that it is especially important to try to park off the streets when snow is expected so that we can clear the streets curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for

more space to park after the streets are plowed. If you have a special need for your driveway to be open—medical supplies, caregiver services, etc.—please call the office and let us know, so that we can see that your driveway is among the first to have the plowed snow pushed back.

**Fiscal year 2012 budget** development has begun. If you have questions or would like more information, please call the office. If you have suggestions for next year's budget, you should contact members of the Town Council or the Mayor.

Finally, in these winter months, it is often hard for some of the town's residents to get out. Please try to be particularly alert for a friend or neighbor who might need a little extra support this time of year. If there is any way you feel that we here at the office might be able to help out, please call (301-933-7488) or drop by.

Ted Pratt, Garrett-park@comcast.net

# Citizens Association News

#### **Upcoming Events: Town Dinner**

The Town Dinner is Saturday, January 29. To help us reflect on how our town weathered hard times in the Depression, this town dinner will honor GP's "Hard Time Parties." Please join us and share stories of how you have made the best of times out of the worst of times. As in the Hard Times parties in the past, bring any chipped china, cups without handles, or the like that you would like to share. In keeping with the spirit of the original parties, we encourage all to dress in worn-out or hobo clothes—dungarees, overalls, flannel shirts, tattered jeans (but not the "distressed" ones with designer holes!), or vintage clothing from the Depression era.

Doors will open at 6 pm and we will sit down at 6:30. As always, this is a pot luck supper. Along with your own serving utensils and eating utensils, you are asked to bring one of the following: appetizers, salad and breads, main dish, or dessert (enough for 8 to 10 people). Alcoholic beverages will not be provided; however, please feel free to bring your own. Space is limited, so reserve your space by contacting Mario Grande as soon as possible. Please be sure to state and spell your name, the number of people attending, and the dish you plan to bring.

A fee of \$5 per person will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, nonalcoholic drinks, and paper goods. We encourage you to pay your Citizens Association dues at the same time (\$10 for individuals and \$20 per family).

The 2011 Officers of the Citizens Association will be elected at the dinner. If you are interested in joining the board or in helping out with the CA, please contact Chris Strong at Chris.s.strong@gmail.com.

#### Citizens Association Annual Dues

The 2011 CA annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. These dues cover the cost of printing the *Bugle* and costs associated with all CA events (Town Dinner, July 4, Newcomers' Reception, Spooky Woods, and Pumpkin Carving). All *Bugle* editing and distribution and time put into the production of town events are strictly on a volunteer basis.

We depend on your dues to produce the things that make Garrett Park a fun place to live. Please submit dues at the Town Dinner or by mailing them to the Citizens Association, Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong (Chris.s.strong@gmail.com).



## Letters to the Editor

#### Lease Agreement

This month the Town Council and the Garrett Park Nursery School signed a lease agreement that documents the public/private partnership between the town and the school to save the Garrett Park Community Center. I know I speak for many families when I thank the Council and Mayor for their courageous leadership and many hours of work, first to negotiate transfer of the building and playgrounds from the Montgomery County Department of Parks to town ownership, and second to forge this agreement. The agreement not only ensures that the nursery school will continue to operate for years to come, but just as importantly, it saves the playgrounds that would otherwise have been paved over for parking and makes the Community Center available to community groups and residents.

Under this agreement, the nursery school, a not-for-profit organization run by the volunteer power of member families, takes on a substantial financial and management burden to renovate and maintain the Community Center building on behalf of the town. This includes managing reservations for the facility—available free to town groups and for a reasonable fee to others (a portion of the fees will go to the town, with the rest to the school for building maintenance). The playgrounds will be open for residents to use year round during nonschool hours as a neighborhood park—the first town-owned park south of Strathmore. In addition to over \$300,000 that the school is raising in grants, donations, and a loan for the renovations, the nursery school will pay utilities, insurance, and long-term maintenance.

For the school this marks a major milestone in our long drive to save the Community Center since we learned of the prospect of demolition nearly four years ago; but it is in many ways only the beginning. We are still seeking financial donations to help pay for the renovations that will begin this spring. The school is exploring how to offer additional programming to the community after the renovations, such as camps and expanded school hours to raise additional funds to pay back any required loan. The town essentially will pay only for trash removal, routine groundskeeping of the park, and the necessary real estate transfer fees. As a condition of the gift of the 3/4 acre property from the county, the town also agreed to continue performing routine maintenance at county-owned Garrett-Waverly Park as it has for years (instead of the county's original request that the town give the county its portion of Garrett-Waverly to the county in trade).

All of us are making an important investment in the future of our community to not only keep but enhance and improve this tremendous asset and resource for our children and our neighbors' children. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Gerilee Bennett

#### Vote Explained

During the January 10 Garrett Park Town Council meeting, councilmembers voted to approve a 25-year lease giving the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School (GPNS) exclusive use of the Garrett Park Community Center (formerly, the Garrett Park Estates Activity Building). I was the sole councilmember to vote against the lease.

When I ran for the council in 2009, many town residents inquired about my support of GPNS and its mission to lease the center. As the father of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader who had a wonderful experience at the school, I stated that I supported it wholeheartedly. I still do. I have spent the past two years as councilmember working with the school's leadership during the county's transfer of ownership of the center to the Town of Garrett Park. I was a key member of the council's negotiation team, charged with crafting the lease for the school. However, I did not vote for the lease presented at the council meeting for the following reasons:

- 1. Critical issues have not been resolved. GPNS has exclusive use of the center for 15 years rentfree (in exchange for investing \$250,000 to repair the center). The school and the town agreed to a \$1,500 annual rental fee beginning in 2026. In light of the uncertain economic future, signals from world financial experts, and President Obama, I did not support a fixed rental figure being determined and included in a 25-year lease signed in 2011.
- 2. Typographical errors and omissions make the lease unclear, creating the potential for misinterpreting the terms—a situation that could negatively impact the town. In fact, Mayor Chris Keller notified the council before the vote that some lease items required correction. I offered to vote for the lease if these errors/omissions were corrected. The Mayor disregarded my offer. More errors surely exist.
- 3. Sections of the lease were negotiated privately versus in official negotiation sessions. Mayor Keller, who was not a member of the lease negotiating team (and does not have a vote on the council), conducted at least two meetings with GPNS lease negotiators, unofficially and outside of scheduled sessions.
- 4. The Mayor submitted the lease less than 2 days before the Council meeting. In light of the issues identified above, 48 hours was not sufficient time to finalize lease terms. The Mayor claimed that GPNS required a signed lease immediately in order to secure Maryland State Grant funds. This is not a valid reason to rush the vote at the expense of a more thorough lease review.

As a proud parent of a GPNS alumna, I have always supported the school's right to sustain its future in the Garrett Park Community Center. My wife Jean and I spearheaded the first official "Save

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Our School" coffee/donuts fundraiser during the 2007 Garrett Park Attic in the Street sale. However, this support does not and should not require the abdication of my responsibility as a councilmember to make valid, fiduciary decisions that impact the entire town—today and in the future. Pushing this lease to a vote was fiscally irresponsible and not in Garrett Park's best interest. This is why I voted No.

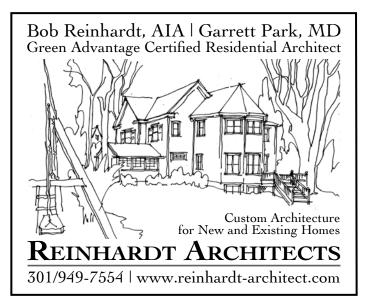
Phil Schulp, Councilmember

#### Art at Penn Place

Warren Kornberg's photographs will be on display at the Penn Place Art Space beginning February 7. Warren writes: "Like the news of Mark Twain's death before the event, reports of the demise of traditional silver gelatin photography have been vastly exaggerated. There aren't that many of us left, but photographers addicted to the tradition of the twentieth century masters are still around. We make photographs the old way—with film and manual cameras—and we make our own prints in our own darkrooms. As one colleague quips, 'The world is analog, why try to digitize it?'

"I have been working this way, exclusively for my own pleasure and that of some of my friends, who have seen fit to hang my photographs in their homes, for about 30 years. Over the years, I have used only two cameras: a Nikon FM-2 and a 1930 vintage 4X5 Speed Graphic. Remember the press cameras in those old movies? Getting what I can out of these manual cameras by main strength and wile truly confirms my conviction that getting there is half the fun; if the end result is successful—if what you see here in the gallery pleases you—the journey has been additionally worth the effort.

"I work mostly with slow film, for the increased print quality it makes possible, so I don't photograph anything that moves too fast. As my wife Felice says, 'If it's a wet rock, we're at the ocean; if it's a dry rock, we're in the mountains.' Additionally, I like to shoot with the light I find, without flash or other artificial lighting aids. Thus ambient light, which preserves the natural sense of a scene!"



#### **GIVES Donates \$3000**

Every day, more than 200 homeless men, women, and children are fed breakfast and dinner by volunteers working with Thrive DC, one of the two organizations that receive regular donations from GIVES. The DC-based nonprofit also provides its clients with free showers and laundry, emergency clothing and blankets, mail/telephone and computer access, and transportation and housing assistance. End-of-year generosity on the part of Garrett Park residents resulted in a check for \$1000 being sent to Thrive DC this week.

In addition, a check for \$2000 was mailed to the American Friends Service Committee, the Quaker-founded international nonprofit based in Philadelphia that works for human rights throughout the world. AFSC's Safe Spaces program in Haiti is providing secure meeting places for Haitians in two earthquake-devastated communities where still only 10 to 20 percent of structures remain standing. AFSC believes that local residents have the ability to solve problems locally, and the organization adjusts its assistance over time to support local self-reliance and governance.

Helping GIVES is easy. Volunteer for a two-hour stint at one of the summer Farmers Market collections or take a two-hour shift in the Post Office (first Saturday of the month). GIVES also welcomes donations of warm socks, travel-sized toiletries, or fleece jackets. Bring these items to the box in the Post Office next to the bookshelf.

Good job, Garrett Park! Thanks to your efforts, it will be an easier winter for some.

#### From the PO

The Post Office staff would like to thank you all for all the holiday goodies, and your cooperation with the long lines that descended before the last-minute mailings. They wish you all the best for the new year. And also, please return all the outstanding yellow cards, and remember to pick up your mail regularly.

Mary Moyer

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## **Obituary**

#### Margaret ("Peg") Winegarden

Longtime Garrett Park resident Margaret Beahon Winegarden died peacefully in her sleep on March 9, 2010, at Hildebrandt Hospice in Rochester, New York at age 93. Predeceased by her daughter, Katharine Washburn, and brother, George Beahon, she is survived by her younger daughter, Mary Winegarden (of San Francisco), former husband Calman Winegarden; her sisters, Elizabeth Gleason and Louise Caring; six grand-children, Andrew, Michael, and Will Washburn and Jonah, Daniel, and Kailey Hoyle; sons-inlaw Tuck Washburn and Geoff Hoyle; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Born June 26, 1916, Margaret was a graduate of Nazareth College (Magna Cum Laude, '38). She earned her MSW from Catholic University after moving to the Washington, D.C., area, where she raised her daughters and worked for nearly three decades as a Case Manager at Family and Child Services.

A lifelong activist from the early years of the Catholic Worker movement, Peg continued to fight for peace and social justice, creating the GIVES program in the Garrett Park community, where she lived happily (first on Oxford Street, and then on Keswick Street) from 1952 to 1989. In late 1989, Peg moved back to Rochester, the city of her youth, where she volunteered at public radio/television station WXXI, enjoying her family there and her love of reading, music, politics, and her cat, Rosie. She spent her last two years at the Rochester Presbyterian Home, where she received much loving care.

A memorial service was held last April in Rochester.

Friends may contribute to the GIVES program in Peg's memory.

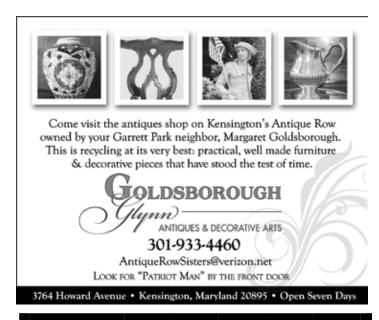
It is the blight man was born for, It is Margaret you mourn for.

#### **GPFS Presents!**

Save the date, February 11, for one of the most romantic films ever made, *A Man and a Woman*. It is sure to put you and your sweetheart in the mood to celebrate Valentine's Day. The film perfectly captures the emotions of two single parents as they reluctantly, but inevitably, fall in love and in so doing will stir those feelings in you as well. *A Man and a Woman (Un Homme et une femme,* 1966), directed by Claude Lelouch, won the Oscar for Best Foreign film in 1967 and stars Anouk Aimée and Jean-Louis Trintignant, with unforgettable music by Francis Lai. Cost for the film is \$5 per person and \$10 per family for nonmembers. Admission to the film is free for Garrett Park Film Society members.

This is the second in a series of nine films that GPFS has scheduled for 2011. To see the full list, go to the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/c/281/film-society. Memberships start at \$25 for one person and \$40 per family. Contact Suzanne Grefsheim for more information.

Dinner, served at 7 pm, will be suitably French and is sure to feature something chocolate for dessert. Cost for dinner is around \$10 per person with wine at \$5, beer at \$3, and soda and water at \$1 also on sale. The film starts at 8 pm, and it all happens at the Town Hall. See you there.







# Letter from the Mayor

All the pieces have finally come together for the Garrett Park Community Center... now owned outright by the town. Transfer of the property—also known as the Garrett Park Estates Local Park and home to the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School—was offered to the town over two years ago by the Montgomery County Parks Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Much effort by many people—town residents, nursery school parents and alumni, the Town Council, county personnel, our state delegation, and friends—has resulted in the acquisition of a property that will be an asset to the town in many ways. Chief among these is the preservation of the nursery school, a town institution for over a half-century. The nursery school will invest over a quarter-million dollars in renovation and upgrades to the Community Center. Because the park and building were transferred by the county at no cost, town outlays have consisted primarily of professional fees to assess the property and handle the myriad legal details of the transfer. For that relatively modest investment, the town has now added a substantial property to its physical assets. As Chuck Berry observed, the town got a "good deal."

Of even greater significance is the intangible benefit of preserving a building that resonates so deeply in the history of the town. Built by volunteer efforts of residents 60 years ago, and home of the nursery school for nearly as long, the Community Center represents a thread of continuity and collaboration that is rare in our contemporary world... and all the more worthy of admiration. Several years ago, when the building was first threatened with demolition, Les Henig noted the considerable role that the Community Center and nursery school have had in fostering the sense of identity and participation in town activities that characterizes Garrett Park. Let us now honor the role that the building has played by continuing to assist the nursery school as it works to renovate the building (see Gerilee Bennett's letter p 4).

A recent exchange on the Garrett Park Neighbors listserv reminds us to be mindful of our

own adherence to driving rules. The specific issue—disregard of the prohibition on right turns on red at the Kenilworth/Strathmore signalimportant. The town will work with the State Highway Administration to explore ways in which safety at the intersection can be improved. We are grateful for the suggestions of contributors on the listsery (Stan Benjamin, Jim Cole, and others) and would be pleased to hear from others who might have thoughts. Among the suggestions is increased policing; to do this, the town would specifically invite the Montgomery County Police to step up enforcement. We can do so, but recall the adage that begins "be careful what you wish for..." That doesn't mean that we should not seek better enforcement; it does mean that we all need to be more attentive to our own observance of traffic laws. In addition to seeing drivers ignore the "no right turn on red" rule, we too often witness indifference to other laws by drivers in Garrett Park—speeding, failing to come to a full stop at the town's few stop signs, or failure to yield to oncoming traffic at our handful of yield signs. Most dismaying is the fact that a significant number of those flouting these rules (and common courtesy) are town residents. I expect that more of us than would care to admit are guilty of at least an occasional lapse. Let each of us add to our new year's resolutions the promise to drive safely and with adherence to laws and common sense.

On a quite literally brighter note, kudos to all who made Garrett Park such a delightful place with their holiday decorations and to the Women's Club for sponsoring the decorations contest. Congratulations are due to the contest winners, and our gratitude to all those who cheered up the longest nights of the year with lights and décor.

Finally, I urge all of you to attend the first of several Archives/Historic Preservation presentations this spring at the Town Hall; the first is on January 23 (see calendar). These events are great fun and help remind us of the wonderful past that has made Garrett Park such a distinctive community.

Chris Keller

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